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1. Customs and traditions of Belarus and the UK

Belarus

Belarus is situated in the eastern part of Europe. It covers 207 600 sq km. Its area is more than the combined size of Greece, Belgium and Denmark. It borders on Latvia and Lithuania in the north-west, on Russia in the north and east, on the Ukraine in the south and south-east and on Poland in the west. The population is over 10 million inhabitants. Belarusians constitute 77 per cent of the population. 72 per cent live in cities, the largest of which are Minsk, Gomel, Brest, Vitebsk, Grodno and Mogilev.

Minsk is the capital of the republic of Belarus, its political, economic, scientific and cultural centre. It's one of the oldest and most beautiful cities in the republic. Minsk is situated on the river Svisloch and occupies an area of 200 sq km. Its population is about 1,8 million.

Our native land is remarkably beautiful with its blue lakes and ribbons of rivers bordered with forests, with its endless fields, meadows and swamps, with its animal and plant life. There are some 3,000 rivers flowing over the territory of Belarus. All rivers of the republic belong to the sea-basins of the Black and Baltic seas. The longest rivers are the Dnieper, the Nieman, the Zapadny Bug and the Zapadnaya Dvina.

The republic has over 10,000 lakes. The largest of them are the Naroch, the Osweyskoye and the Drisvyaty. There is a great number of lakes in the north-west of the republic, in the so-called Belarusian Polesye.

As Belarus is an independent state, it possesses national symbols: Constitution of Belarus, national emblem that was chosen in the 1995 referendum. The elements of the emblem include a ribbon in the colors of the national flag, a map of Belarus and a red star. At the base of the ribbon, it says the country name in the Belarusian language. The emblem is an allusion to the one used by the Byelorussian SSR, designed by Ivan Dubasov in 1950.

The national flag has been in use since 1995, one of two symbols adopted in the 1995 referendum. The main elements of the flag is a red and green bicolor, then decorated with an ornament pattern at the hoist position. The current flag is a modification of the 1951 flag used while the country was a republic of the Soviet Union.

The music for the State Anthem of the Republic of Belarus has been written by Nestor Sokolovsky, the lyrics — by Mikhail Klimkovich and Vladimir Korizna.

The State Anthem of the modern Belarus retains the musical basis of the anthem of the Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic.

As for our history, the first people appeared on our territories in the Stone Age. During centuries our people and territory were the part of The Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Rzecz Pospolita, The Russian Empire, went through numerous amount of wars (but we never was the initiators of any wars).

All this difficulties helped to create our national character. The people of Belarus are kind, friendly and good-humoured. The patience and peacefulness of the Belarusian people has been determined by the nation's history that has been darkened by endless wars. But despite the fact that Belarusian people don't like to smile a lot, we can laugh from the heart.

Belarus has deep historical roots in the past that's why its customs and traditions often have a fascinating history. The most ancient Belarusian traditions and holidays can be classified according to four seasons of the year: spring, summer, autumn and winter. Also as the biggest part of our nation are Christians we celebrate a decent amount of Catholic and Orthodox holidays, the main are Easter and Christmas.

All such things give us wonderful possibility to be proud of our nation, our country But another time we should turn to the history of our land as it bring us great amount of talented people. Among them are world-famous artists: Marc Chagall, Napoleon Orda, Mikhail Savitsky, Alexander Kischenko; writers, musicians, composers. Also we must mention our sportsmen: Alexander Medved, Olga Korbut, Vitaly Shcherbo, Maxim Mirnyi ect.; scientists: Pavel Sukhoi , Sofia Kovalevskaya , Zhores Alferov and many other names.

History of Great Britain

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is a country of great history rich in important events and entertaining legends connected with them. It's not enough to write several volumes to tell the full history of the country. That's why we'll try to answer the question where the British come from and who they are.

They say, that in prehistoric times Britain was joined to Europe. So the first people came there over dry land. The present English Channel which separates Britain from Europe appeared at the end of the Ice Age. In the New Stone Age the hunters crossed the sea to the west of the Channel and settled along the Western shores in search of food. The first inhabitants of the island came from the Iberian peninsula, where Spain is located, somewhere after 3000 BC. After 2000 BC the people from the east of Europe entered the country. The two peoples intermixed. They left us Stonehenge and Avebury as impressive monuments of their time.

After 800 BC the Celts arrived from Central Europe and opened up a new important page of the British history. The name «Britain» comes from the name of a Celtic tribe known as the Britons. Their influence was greatest in Wales, Scotland and Ireland, as they were driven to these parts by the invaders who followed them. That's why these parts of Britain are very different from England in language, customs and traditions.

In 55 BC Julius Caesar, the Roman ruler, invaded Britain. However, his first expedition was not successful, because his force was small, and the Celts fought well. In the following year 54 BC he invaded the country with a larger army and this time the expedition was successful: the Celts were defeated. But Caesar didn't stay in Britain. He left the country with slaves and riches and made the Celts pay a regular tribute to Rome.

Some 90 years later, in 43 AD, the country was conquered by the Romans and the occupation continued to the beginning of the 5th century (410 AD). Roman influence was greatest in the south and south-east, while in the north and west the country remained untouched. The Romans built many towns, connected them by good roads. The largest of the towns was called Londinium. Roman culture and civilization had a positive influence on the development of the country. When the Romans left, Britain remained independent for some time.

However quite soon it was attacked by Germanic tribes: the Jutes, the Saxons and the Angles. And by the end of the 5th century the greater part of the country was occupied. People began to call the new land of the Angles and Saxons England. Wales, Cornwall, the northern part of Britain and Ireland remained unconquered and preserved Celtic culture.

The Saxon kingdoms fought one against the other. In 829 the greater part of the country was united under the name England.

The northern part was the home of the Picts and Scots. After the conquest of the Picts by the Scots in the 9th century this territory was called Scotland. And in the 11th century a united Scottish kingdom was formed.

An important event which contributed to the unification of the country was the adoption of Christianity in England in 664.

In the 9th century the Danes attacked England. It was Alfred who defeated the Danes making them sign a peace agreement.

The last of the invaders to come to Britain were the Normans from France. In 1066 Duke William of Normandy defeated the English at the battle of Hastings and established his rule as king of England known as William the Conqueror. The French language became the official language of the ruling class for the next three centuries. This explains the great number of French words in English. The power of the state grew and little by little England began to spread its power. First on Wales, then on Scotland and later on Ireland. Wales was brought under the English parliament in 1536 and 1542 by Henry VIII.

In 1603 the son of Mary Queen of Scots James Stuart became James I of England. The union of England, Wales and Scotland became known as Great Britain. However the final unification of Scotland and England took place in 1707 when both sides agreed to form a single parliament in London for Great Britain, although Scotland continued to keep its own system of law, education and have an independent church.

Ireland was England's first colony, but even now there are problems there connected with religion. The Irish people can be divided into two religious groups: Catholics and Protestants. The fighting between

these groups is connected with the colonial past. In the 16th century Henry VIII of England quarreled with Rome and declared himself head of the Anglican Church, which was a Protestant church. He tried to force Irish Catholics to become Anglican. This policy was continued by his daughter Elizabeth I. The «Irish question» remained in the centre of British politics till 1921. After a long and bitter struggle the southern part of Ireland became a Free State. The northern part of Ireland where the Protestants were in majority remained part of the UK. After all the years of confrontation the people of Northern Ireland understand that only through peace talks and respect for the rights of both Catholics and Protestants can peace be achieved.

Recently, there have been many waves of immigration into Britain. Now Britain is a multinational society, which benefits from the influence of different people and cultures.

Vocabulary

AD = anno Domini (<i>лат.</i>)	нашей эры
adoption <i>rc.</i>	принятие
attack <i>v.</i>	нападать, атаковать
BC = before Christ	до нашей эры
benefit <i>n.</i>	извлекать пользу
bitter struggle	жестокая борьба
Celt	кельт
conquer <i>v.</i>	завоевывать, покорять
conqueror <i>n.</i>	завоеватель
contribute <i>o.</i>	способствовать
Danes	датчане
declare <i>v.</i>	объявлять
defeat <i>i.</i>	наносить поражение
drive (drove, driven) <i>v.</i>	гнать, преследовать
entertaining <i>a.</i>	занимательный
force <i>v.</i>	заставлять, принуждать
Iberian peninsula	Иберийский полуостров
Ice Age	ледниковый период
impressive <i>a.</i>	впечатляющий
intermix <i>v.</i>	смешивать(ся)
invade	вторгаться, захватывать
New Stone Age	новый каменный век
preserve <i>v.</i>	сохранять
quarrel <i>v.</i>	ссориться
ruler <i>n.</i>	правитель
search <i>n.</i>	поиски
separates.	отделять, разделять
tribe <i>n.</i>	племя
tribute <i>n.</i>	дань
unification <i>n.</i>	объединение
untouched	нетронутый,

Halloween

Halloween is a festival that takes place on October 31. In the United States children wear costumes and masks and go trick-or-treating. Many of them carve jack-o'-lanterns out of pumpkins. Fortune telling and storytelling about ghosts and witches are popular activities.

Halloween developed from new year festivals and festivals of the dead. Christian church established a festival on November 1 called All Saints' Day so that people could continue to celebrate their festivals. The Mass said on All Saints' Day was called Allhallowmass. The day before All Saints' Day was known all hallow's Eve or All Hallow e'en.

The main Halloween activity for children is trick-or-treating. Children dress in costumes and masks and go from door to door saying «trick or treat». The neighbours give children such treats as candy, fruit and pennies so that children do not play tricks on them.

Jack-o'-lanterns are hallowed-out pumpkins with face carved into one side. Most jack-o'-lanterns contain a candle inside. An Irish legend says that jack-o'-lanterns are named after the man called Jack. He could not enter heaven because he was a miser, and he could not enter hell because he had played jokes on devil. As a result, Jack has to walk on the earth with his lantern until Judgment Day.

Fortunetelling is an important part of Halloween. For example, a coin, a ring, and a thimble were baked into a cake. It was believed that the person who found the coin would become wealthy. The one who found the ring would marry soon. And the person who found the thimble would never get married. Today people practice cardreading or palmistry.

People once believed that there were many ghosts and witches on the Earth and that they met on October 31 to worship the devil. Today, people do not believe in ghosts and witches but they like to tell stories about them on Halloween.

St. Valentine's Day

There are several legends about St. Valentine's Day. One of the legends says that Valentine was Christian priest who lived in the 3rd century A.D. He was put into prison by Roman authorities for his teachings and was beheaded on February 14. According to the legend he performed a miracle — he cured his jailer's daughter of her blindness. Before the execution he wrote her a letter signed «From Your Valentine». Another legend says that the same Valentine wrote to children and friends who loved him from the jail.

According to another legend, Valentine was an Italian bishop who lived at about the same time. He was thrown into prison because he secretly married couples, contrary to the laws of the Roman empire. The legend says that he was burnt at the stake. February 14 was also a Roman holiday. On this day young men randomly chose the name of the girl to escort to the festival. The custom of choosing a sweetheart on this day became very popular in the medieval Europe. Later this custom spread to American colonies.

Now, St. Valentine's Day is the day of sweethearts. On this day, people show their friends, relatives and loved ones that they care. People send candy or flowers to those whom they love. Most people send «valentines», greeting cards named after St. Valentine's letters written from jail. Valentines can be sentimental and romantic, or funny and friendly. Valentines can be anonymous. Valentines can be heart-shaped or can carry hearts on them. People buy valentines or make them themselves.

Christmas

Christmas Day is celebrated on December 25. Many people look on Christmas as the time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, but really the tradition goes back to the earliest of times.

In those days the sun meant so much to primitive man that when it began to go lower each day till December 23, people thought the sun was going to die out and they were worried. They ate less keeping the food for the next year.

On December 23 the sun stayed in the sky longer after that the nights were becoming shorter and shorter. When this happened, the primitive man was very happy. He even felt he wanted to celebrate it. Later it became a tradition to celebrate it at the end of December with presents and plenty of eating. Now Christmas tree stands in everybody's living-room at Christmas. In the earliest of times green trees were symbols of life. Candles at Christmas also go back to those times. People believed then that their light helped them to forget the darkness of winter.

The first weekday after Christmas is a public holiday. In England it is called Boxing Day. In past times it was the traditional day to give presents to servants. This day is called Boxing Day because at one time the presents were put in boxes (Christmas boxes). Usually Boxing Day is on December 26, but if Christmas Day falls on Saturday, Boxing Day is on December 27.

Not all Christmas traditions are old. The first Christmas card was made only in 1842 by an English painter who sent that card to one hundred of his friends. Now millions of Christmas cards are sent and received.

Christmas is a time for eating. The traditional food is turkey, Christmas cake, Christmas pudding made of fruit. Some families make pudding a year before they eat it. Believe it or not, in a year they eat the pudding with great pleasure.

Christmas

Christmas is Christian holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. For millions of Christians throughout the world it is the happiest and the busiest time of the year. No one knows the exact date of Christ's birth but most Christians celebrate Christmas on December 25. The word Christmas comes from *Christes masse*, an early English phrase that means Mass of Christ.

People of different countries celebrate Christmas in various ways. People in the United States and Canada decorate their homes with Christmas trees, wreaths and ornaments. City streets are filled with colored lights; the sound of bells and Christmas carols can be heard everywhere.

Children write letters to Santa Claus and tell him what presents they would like to get. Many department stores hire people to wear a Santa Claus costume and listen to children's requests. People send Christmas cards to relatives and friends. Many companies give presents to their employees.

A Christmas tree is one of the main symbols of Christmas in most homes. Relatives and friends may join in trimming the tree with lights, tinsel, and colorful ornaments. Presents are placed under the tree. On Christmas Eve or Christmas morning, families open their presents. Many children believe that Santa Claus arrives on Christmas Eve in a sleigh pulled by reindeer and brings presents. Some children hang up stockings so Santa Claus can fill them with candy, fruit and other small gifts.

In many parts of the United States and Canada groups of people walk from house to house and sing Christmas carols. Some people give singers money or small gifts or invite them for a warm drink.

Many people attend church services on Christmas Eve or on Christmas morning. They listen to readings from Bible and singing Christmas carols.

A traditional Christmas dinner consists of stuffed turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and a variety of other dishes. Some families have ham or roast goose instead of turkey. Pumpkin pie, plum pudding, and fruitcake are favorite desserts.

2. National cuisine

Food. National Cuisine

I

Food plays an important role in our life because we can't live without food. Food gives us all necessary vitamins and elements; it reflects our eating habits and even national character. Besides, when you travel you always try national cuisine to know what people eat, how they cook it and what it tastes like. People of every country have their own cuisine and eating habits.

Let's remember British cuisine. English breakfast is usually a quick meal, so the British eat cornflakes with milk and toast with tea or coffee.

1-2 o'clock is lunch time and the British go to a cafe to have different salads, fish, fruit and tea. People, who prefer to have meals at home, usually eat soup, chicken and vegetables.

Nowadays the British don't have 5 o'clock tea. But at 6 p.m. they have dinner. It is the last meal of the day for most English people.

The most typical dinner consists of fish, meat, omelet, cheese, salads, and of course, tea. In Belarus people usually eat at home because they prefer home-made food. Home-made food is healthier, tastier and cheaper.

For breakfast Belarusian people eat bread with butter and cheese, some-times porridge or sausages.

For dinner we have soup, meat and our national dish-potatoes. Supper is usually eaten at home. It can be porridge, spaghetti, sausages and salad.

What concerns my family, I should say that we don't have meals together, because we are very busy and work till late evening. Everyone has what and when he wants. My mum usually cooks for the whole family. We usually have soup, potatoes, spaghetti, sausages, meat, fish and cakes. I'd like to say that we like Belarusian cuisine and we usually eat *nalistniki*, porridge and of course, *draniki*. They are my favourite. In conclusion, I should say that all people are fond of their national cuisine.

II

I should say that I am too busy for cooking and my mom cooks for the whole family. But I like cooking because I can cook the dishes I like. I don't know many recipes, but my favourite dish is Belarusian draniki. I think our national food is very tasty and healthy because we use a lot of vegetables, mushrooms and fish. They contain a lot of vitamins and useful elements. I think we should eat only healthy food because a healthy body has a healthy mind. I personally try to cook healthy food and often invite guests to have a meal together. My friends come to try my salads, especially new recipes, and of course, my draniki. May I invite you?

III

My friend wants to know more about national cuisines. Which national dishes would you recommend him to taste?

Belarus is famous for its cuisine. Many tourists come to our country to try Belarusian food. But I advise to try «draniki». They are potato pancakes, sometimes with meat, mushrooms, eggs or vegetables. They are served with sour cream. I think «draniki» is the tastiest Belarusian dish and every family in our country has its own recipe.

Grate raw potatoes, add some salt, pepper, onions and eggs. Fry pancakes and serve with sour cream. I'm sure you will like them.

What cafes would you recommend to visit in your place? Why?

There are not many cafes in Pinsk but I would recommend you to visit «Grant». They serve high-quality food, the waiters are friendly and the food is great. You can go to this cafe with your friends, you can try tasty food and have fun. Besides, the music in the cafe is really good and the prices are not very high. I like everything in this cafe.

IV

Modern world makes a person be flexible and mobile. People don't have time to cook food at home. Fast food is not only cheap, but also tasty. That's why teenagers all over the world can't stop eating it.

Such companies as McDonald's and Starbucks sell high-calorie and high-fat food full of salt and spices. Children like such food, that's why they don't want to eat healthy food at school. They say school food is not tasty.

I think we should eat more healthy home-made food, because a healthy body has a healthy mind.

Most of the families want to have a big kitchen, but at the same time they have a meal together less and less often. What do you think about it?

I agree that nowadays most families want to have a big kitchen, but at the same time they have meals together less and less often. Modern kitchens are rather big and have a lot of modern household appliances and utensils: big fridges, different types of knives, modern stoves and washing machines. But they don't use them very often because nowadays people are too busy and work till late evening.

People prefer to go to a cafe or buy ready-made food. And everyone has meals when he can do it, but not together.

Belarusian national cuisine

Belarusian national cuisine has evolved over the centuries.

Belarusian cuisine was influenced by two main factors:

- active farming and extensive use of local produce;
- influences from neighboring countries and migrant settlers

Therefore, the Belarusian cuisine is one of the most diverse in the continent. It is similar to the Russian, Lithuanian, Ukrainian, Polish, Jewish, but is unique in its own way.

The Belarusian cuisine widely uses **local produce**: vegetables and greens (cabbages, turnips, beets, carrots, pumpkins, potatoes, cucumbers, onions and garlic), pulses (beans, peas, lentils, kidney beans), mushrooms (pickled, dried, powdered), fruit and berries (apples, pears, plums, cherries, currants,

blackberries, blueberries, red bilberries, raspberries), spices and dressings (caraway, coriander, linseed, horseradish, mustard, juniper, cherry and oak leaves).

Potatoes deserve a special mention: being introduced to the diet of the Belarusians in the 18th century they have formed the basis of many Belarusian dishes for hundreds of years. Among them are famous draniki, kolduny, potato sausage, kletski, babka... – there are some 300+ dishes recorded in Belarus – that it came to be considered the core of the national cuisine.

The Belarusian cuisine is a variety of **meat** and poultry dishes (kumpyachok, machanka, vereshchaka, tushanka, smazhanka), all sorts of home-made sausages, salty lard, smoked meat... Meat was in rather scarce supply for most people, and was often eaten only on the main Christian holidays. Avid consumers of pork, Belarusians are less partial to mutton and beef. Most common was raw pork sausage – a pig intestine stuffed with minced or chopped meat seasoned with salt, pepper, and garlic. Most common was raw pork sausage – a pig intestine stuffed with minced or chopped meat seasoned with salt, pepper, and garlic. It's common name – "finger-stuffed sausage".

The Belarusian cuisine is also rich **in fish** dishes. Among dishes from fish the Belarusians prefer yushka, galki and also baked or boiled river-fish without special seasonings.

The pride of the national cuisine is traditional Belarusian **bread** baked with the use of rye flour. This is a very healthy product. Belarusian bread is heavier and is a bit sour. In old recipes bread was sometimes baked on the 'pillow' made from birch and oak leaves.

Common **dairy** products included curd cheese (made of cow and goat milk), sour cream, and butter. Milk is a regular ingredient in many Belarusian recipes, including all kinds of soups, porridges.

For many centuries honey has been the **main dessert** for the Belarusians. Solodukha, kulaga (made from berries, flour, sugar, and honey), and baked apples, kissel, the traditional jelly drink of Eastern Europe also were popular.

Kvass traditionally was and still remains the main local non-alcoholic drink. Every small town has a local variety of mineral water.

Various kinds of **cereal** especially barley, oatmeal and buckwheat were common. Belarus was the likely centre of Europe's buckwheat culture, and dishes made with this healthy grain used to be very popular: various kinds of buns, cakes and dumplings which, except for the well-known "kasha", no longer exist today. Typical **salads** are made of a fairly short list of ingredients: endless combinations of boiled beef or chicken, potato, beet, carrot, apple, diced cheese, onions and mushrooms.

The Belarusian cuisine offers a great variety of dishes made from vegetables. Many of them are unique despite the fact that they are based on traditional Slavonic recipes. Fresh vegetable salads are also widely available: tomatoes (also mixed with cucumbers) and onions seasoned with sour cream, radishes with sunflower oil (or sour cream).

The word **soup** was not known in Belarus until the 18th century when the nobility borrowed it from German. The old word for most traditional Belarusian soups was poli'uka, except vegetable ones. Belarusians are fond of borscht, a thick and rich beet and cabbage soup made with grains, potato and meat. The Belarusian khaladnik, cold borscht made of beets, beet leaves or sorrel and served with sour-cream, hard-boiled eggs, and boiled potatoes, has been a popular dish also in Polish and Lithuanian cuisines.

For example, the Belarusian cuisine is characterized by quite complicated and lengthy **processing** of products. It includes such methods as braising, stewing, baking, cooking, blanching and roasting, with several of them being used in some recipes.

First of all you will need a grater to grate potatoes and onions. Prepare ingredients. Peel potatoes and onion.

Grate potatoes and onions into a bowl.

Add salt, pepper, egg and mix together. The substance should not be liquid, and should not be too thick, drain excess potato juice or add some flour to achieve required level of liquidity.

Heat the frying pan, pour 1 tbl. spoon of sunflower oil onto it.

Dump a full table spoon of mixture onto the frying pan and from a small pancake. Cook on high for 2-3 minutes and then flip over.

Cook another 2-3 minutes until golden brown.

Serve hot with sour cream.

British cuisine

British cuisine has many regional varieties within the broader categories of English, Scottish and Welsh cuisine. Each have developed their own regional or local dishes, many of which are geographically indicated foods such as Cornish pasties, the Yorkshire pudding, Cumberland Sausage, Arbroath Smokie, and Welsh cakes. English cuisine encompasses the cooking styles, traditions and recipes associated with England. It has distinctive attributes of its own, but also shares much with wider British cuisine, partly through the importation of ingredients and ideas from North America, China, and India during the time of the British Empire and as a result of post-war immigration.

Modern British (or New British) cuisine is a style of British cooking which has become increasingly popular. It uses high-quality local ingredients, preparing them in ways which combine traditional British recipes with modern innovations.

Although some traditional dishes such as roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, Cornish pasties, steak and kidney pie, bread and butter pudding, treacle tart, spotted dick or fish and chips, remain popular, there has been a significant shift in eating habits in Britain. Roast beef is still the national culinary pride. It is called a "joint," and is served at midday on Sunday with roasted potatoes, Yorkshire pudding, two vegetables, a good strong horseradish, gravy, and mustard.

In fact fish is still important to the English diet, we are after all an island surrounded by some of the richest fishing areas of the world.

Dairy cattle are also farmed extensively - England is famous for its creams and butters and for its sturdy and delicious cheeses: Stilton, Cheshire and its rare cousin blue Cheshire, double Gloucester, red Leicester, sage Derby, and of course cheddar. Some of more interesting british dishes include: Beefsteak, Oyster, and Kidney Pudding, Black Pudding, Crown Roast Lamb; Hasty Pudding: A simple and quick (thus the name) steamed pudding of milk, flour, butter, eggs, and cinnamon.

It's impossible to speak about British cuisine without saying about eating habits. The first meal of the day is breakfast (usually eaten between about 7:30 and 9:00). Many British people eat toast with butter or margarine and jam, marmalade (a type of jam made from oranges). Others eat a bowl of cereal; for example, cornflakes or muesli with milk, or porridge. A traditional English breakfast (also known as a cooked breakfast or a fry-up) is a cooked meal which may contain food such as sausages, bacon, black pudding, scrambled or fried egg, mushrooms, fried tomatoes, baked beans, hash browns and toast

Many people have a tea-break at about 11:00 in the morning. If a meal is eaten in the late morning instead of both breakfast and lunch, it is called brunch.

Lunch is the meal eaten in the middle of the day (usually between about 12:30 and 2:00). Many people eat a sandwich. Some people have a simple meal such as cheese and biscuits or soup and bread. It is also traditional for people to go to a pub with some friends for a pub lunch and a drink.

A Sunday roast is a traditional meal eaten by a family at Sunday lunchtime; for example, roast beef with roast potatoes, parsnips, peas, Brussels sprouts, green beans, Yorkshire pudding, bread sauce and gravy. Stuffing may be eaten with chicken or turkey.

Tea-time is a small meal eaten in the late afternoon (usually between about 3:30 and 5:00). People may drink tea, and often eat biscuits, cakes.

High tea is a light meal eaten in the early evening (for example, 6 o'clock) served with a pot of tea; this is popular in north England and Scotland. Dinner is the most common name for the meal eaten in the evening (usually between 7:00 and 8:30).

It is increasingly popular for British people get a takeaway or go to a restaurant instead of cooking at home, and often this is used as a chance to try different types of food.

In the United Kingdom, a "cafe", "working men's cafe" is a small, inexpensive eating place. The typical working men's cafe serves mainly fried or grilled food, such as fried eggs, bacon, black pudding, bubble and squeak, burgers, sausages, mushrooms and chips. These are often accompanied by baked beans, cooked tomatoes, and fried bread. These are served in a variety of combinations and are generally referred to as "breakfast" even if they are available all day.

A tea room is a small room or restaurant where beverages and light meals are served, often having a sedate or subdued atmosphere.

The modern fish-and-chip shop originated in the United Kingdom. Early fish-and-chip shops had only very basic facilities. Usually these consisted principally of a large cauldron of cooking fat, heated by a coal fire. Fish-and-chips is usually eaten with salt and vinegar, and may be accompanied by gherkins or

mushy peas. Chippies may serve other takeaway foods, such as burgers, sausages, Chinese spring rolls, pies and Doner kebabs.

The public house, or pub is a famous English institution. "Pub grub" expanded to include British food items such as steak and ale pie, steak and kidney pudding, shepherd's pie, fish and chips, bangers and mash, Sunday roast, ploughman's lunch, and pasties. We should remember that British cuisine coincide some types, as

Scottish cuisine is the specific set of cooking traditions and practices associated with Scotland. It shares much with English cuisine, but has distinctive attributes and recipes of its own. Traditional Scottish dishes such as haggis and shortbread exist alongside international foodstuffs brought about by migration. Scotland is known for the high quality of its beef, lamb, potatoes, oats, and sea foods. In addition to foodstuffs, Scotland produces a variety of whiskies.

Welsh cuisine has been influenced by other British cuisine. Although both beef and dairy cattle are raised widely, Wales is best known for its sheep, and thus lamb is the meat traditionally associated with Welsh cooking. Welsh cuisine has influenced and been influenced by other British cuisines. Beef and dairy cattle are raised widely. Welsh cooking often include seafood, especially close to the coast, where fishing culture is strong and fisheries are common. The leek, because of its role as the country's national vegetable, is also used frequently in Welsh cuisine.

It is necessary to remember that British cuisine have much in common with cuisines of other English-speaking countries.

The cuisine of the United States

The cuisine of the United States reflects its history. They had cuisine similar to British cuisine. The American colonial diet included deer, bear, buffalo and wild turkey. Seafood in the United States originated with the Native Americans. During the 18th and 19th centuries, Americans developed many new foods. Some spread throughout the world, such as popcorn, Coca-Cola and its competitors, fried chicken, cornbread and brownies. During the Progressive Era (1890s–1920s) food production and presentation became more industrialized.

Similarly, some dishes that are typically considered American have their origins in other countries. Hot dogs and hamburgers are both based on traditional German dishes, but in their modern popular form they can be reasonably considered American dishes. Many companies in the American food industry develop new products requiring minimal preparation, such as frozen entrees. Many of these recipes have become very popular.

Generally speaking the modern cuisine of the United States is very much regional in nature. In short, American cuisine is much like Monopoly. Every family has their own way of playing despite what the official rules may say. When it comes to good food I'd like to think there is no wrong way to make it as long as everyone is entertained and good memories are created for all.

Australian cuisine

Australian cuisine of the first decade of the 21st century shows the influence of globalisation. Fish and seafood remain popular in Australia. Fruit and vegetables are widely used in Australian cuisine, but in terms of cooked fruit dishes, fruits are often eaten poached in sugar syrup (often with spices such as vanilla, cloves or citrus peel) and eaten as a breakfast or dessert. Fresh fruit is often consumed simply without any adulteration at any time of day, or combined in fruit salad, which is a popular summer dessert nationally.

An iconic Australian food is Vegemite. Other unique or iconic national foods include macadamia nuts; Violet Crumble, a honeycomb chocolate bar; Cherry Ripe; Tim Tams, a chocolate biscuit; lamingtons.

Kangaroo meat is widely available in Australia, although it is not among the most commonly eaten meats. It is available today in various cuts and sausages. Also eaten (in special restaurants) is emu meat and crocodile meat. As these meats need special preparation they are not found in mainstream restaurants or at home

Modern life runs so quickly that people often don't have enough time to eat. And they get little time for cooking. Lots of people think that fast food is the best solution in this situation. That's why fast-food chains have become so popular. They provide simple menus, which usually contain French fries,

hamburgers, sandwiches, salads, milk cocktails, brownies and else. People like having food which is cooked beforehand and served quickly. However all of us know fast food rather unhealthy. Fast food contains many calories, lots of harmful fat. Eating fast food every day leads to overweight and stomach problems. Luckily, people today are more health-conscious than before and they realize that eating lots of fast food can be dangerous. Eating fast food can lead to the following health problems: high blood pressure, heart diseases and obesity.

3. School traditions

My school traditions

Gymnasium is one of the leading schools for children from 6 to 16 in Pruzhany district. It's a place where I spend most of my weekdays. Gymnasium is a school where all the pupils - both bright and average – can achieve better examination results than at other similar schools.

The aim of the school is to develop its pupils' talents and abilities. They also aim at encouraging friendliness, honesty and respect for each other.

There is a number of school clubs and societies for each pupil, which offer opportunities to develop different talents and skills. We also develop ourselves because we have many opportunities to travel to foreign countries. But the most important thing is that with the help of experienced teachers pupils get knowledge, develop their excellence, independence and qualities of leadership.

Gymnasium is a school with lessons and breaks, teachers and pupils. These things are similar in all Belarusian schools. But there is one thing which makes this place very special and even unique. I mean its traditions. They are Gymnasist's Day, Health Day, Reunion Day, Teacher's Day, "The light of a Christmas star" and "Wonders of New Year", the Gymnasist of the year, the First of September and the Last Bell. Some these traditions you can find in other schools but some are typical of our gymnasium.

We follow these traditions year by year but our pupils are not tired of them as every time some specific elements appear. It will take me too much time to describe all our traditions that's why I'd like to pay your attention to my favorite ones.

The first is Teacher's Day. All our pupils find this day exciting. And there are some reasons for it: firstly, only pupils teach and give marks on this day and teachers have special funny classes. Secondly, we organize a concert for our teachers in which pupils of all classes take part. This concert is always touching and exciting. This day is full of warm feelings and congratulations.

The second tradition which is typically for gymnasium is Gymnasist's Day. It is usually held at the end of October. There is a special ceremony when the 5th form pupils become gymnasists. After it all pupils take part in humorous activities: they can sing, draw, go quizzes and eat delicious things in our gymnasium café. By the way, all tasty things are cooked by our pupils. We've got our own currency at school. This day is brought to the end by special performance. Every year it is different.

One of the kindest traditions in our gymnasium is the act of charity "The light of a Christmas star". Annually the pupils of our gymnasium congratulate the children of the Belarusian republican association "Children in trouble" on New Year's Day and on Christmas Day. This is a pleasant surprise for children and their parents. It helps people to be in high spirit before holidays and believe that some day their dreams will come true.

The tradition of the Reunion day is held on the first Saturday of February. On this day school-leavers come to gymnasium to meet their teachers and former classmates. There is often a concert in Assembly Hall. People give flowers to their teachers and say speeches.

No matter what traditions a school has, no matter how old they are, they will always bring special family-like atmosphere. Traditions unite teachers and pupils, make a school tight-knit.

The beginning of the school year

A school year is nine months long and it's full of events! Many of them became traditions because they happen every year on the same dates. Some traditions are similar in all Belarusian schools, some are unique.

The school year starts on September, 1. This day is special for all: school children, their teachers and parents. The day starts with the school gathering when all classes and teachers stand in front of the school and listen to the welcoming speeches of their teachers, schoolmates and parents. Students look really nice in their new school uniforms! Everyone is excited to see their school friends and teachers after long summer holidays. After the school gathering teachers take their classes to their classrooms for the first lesson. When the lesson is over, students may have a class event - a picnic or a walk in the park or a class trip. The events on this day are usually the same every year but everyone waits for this day likes it and remembers it.

School traditions

My school is an ordinary building in a new residential area, a three-stored building with a nice gym. Most of our classrooms are quite good, light and spacious. When you enter this or that classroom you understand what subject is taught here as you see special devices or equipment in every room.

At school we work at many things like physical development, emotions, relationships and which is the most important we get knowledge. Various subjects are studied at our gymnasium. As for me... I'm fond of ... I work hard so as to gain good knowledge and to pass my future exams successfully.

School provides children not only with knowledge. It's also a place where children spend their free time. There are many different groups and sport sections in my school. School is our second home. No one can forget it.

My school life is connected not only with studies but with many other important things. When I think about my school years I recollect a lot of events. Many of them became traditions because they happen every year on the same dates.

The school year starts on the first of September. This day is special for all: school children, their teachers and parents. In the morning pupils stand in front of the school and listen to the welcoming speeches of their teachers, classmates and parents. Everyone is excited to see their school friends and teachers after long summer holidays. After the school gathering teachers take their classes to their classrooms for the first lesson. The events on this day are usually the same every year but everyone waits for this day, likes it and remembers it.

Every year in September we have our Sports Day. It opens with running race. Then we have competitions in different sports, we play sports games, run, jump. The day finishes with a closing ceremony where winners get their prizes.

There are a lot of festivals in our gymnasium where pupils can show their talents. Annual Applause Party and A Minute of Glory are among them. The pupils sing, dance and show theatrical play there. Everyone likes them and try to show their best on them.

Nowadays it's almost impossible to imagine any profession without global communication. Your employer will prefer to have a person who is potentially able to communicate in the foreign language. So, if a person has got a strong motivation, it'll be easy for him/her to make progress in English. I would recommend watching English films, listening to different educational programmes, songs, read in English. The Internet can offer you a great variety of activities connected with learning languages.

There are always people who complain about something. The same thing happens at school. Personally, I don't like these wet blankets. They may not like teachers or subjects or timetable or what not. They are always complaining about their huge home tasks or something else. There may be two reasons for such behavior: either they are lazy or depressed. To tell you the truth, this group is not a numerous one. I try to avoid such people.

4. Money

Money

1. What do you know about the history of money?

To begin with, I would like to say that money plays an important role in our life. People use money every day to pay for things they buy. People work for money, they go out to spend money. Some people

even make friends for money. In the past people used different objects, for example shells, salt, tobacco. The objects were used to buy goods. But it was difficult to divide them or to save up for a rainy day.

Later people invented another kind of money. The first coins were made in Turkey; the first paper money appeared in China. Today money is produced and controlled by the government.

Nowadays there are many ways of earning money. Some people become rich due to their talents. Some people win money in lotteries. Children and students take up part-time jobs. With their own money they get a sense of independence. They learn to appreciate their labor. But there are also criminals who don't like to work. They steal money, rob other people and even kill for money. I think it's awful.

Of course, money gives us independence, financial stability and a lot of opportunities for travelling or having fun. But people become money dependant. They want more and more things: clothes, food, cars, houses. And they don't use money to help other people.

As for me, I'm not a person of that kind. I agree that money can make our life more comfortable but it's not everything in this world.

Pocket money

1. As a rule your parents provide you with some pocket money. What things do you usually spend this money on?

It goes without saying that people use money every day to pay for things they buy. They can pay either in cash or by credit cards or checks.

What makes money valuable? What use does it have for us? As the proverb says, "Money makes the world go round". There are four main things money does for everybody. First, it makes possible exchange and trade. Second, money can be used to measure and compare the values of various things. Third, it's a storehouse of value. And forth, it serves as a standard for future payments.

I don't earn money at present. I depend on my parents in food, clothes and all other things I need. I'm not keen on shopping at all and when my parents ask me to buy something I'm often reluctant to do it. My parents usually decide what clothes to buy for me and I have to go with them to the department store to buy necessary clothes. My favourite items are blue jeans, grey sweaters, black boots and so on. Most of all I like book and music shops. I can stay there for hours leafing through piles of CDs or books. So, I've bought a book of English idioms recently.

At school I spend money on buying food. My eating habits and drinking habits are quite reasonable. So, I usually buy salads, porridge, mashed potatoes with fish or meat at our school canteen. I like orange juice and apple juice. I seldom buy fast food or fizzy drinks as I consider them to be bad for my health.

I am happy to live in a united family. It's a big pleasure for me to save my pocket money in order to buy nice presents for my household. I often buy flowers, nice souvenirs such as key-holders, photo albums, pictures, stationery, funny toy animals and dolls for my family members. I feel happy when I can make my mum, dad and sister happy. As I appreciate hand-made presents, I often make toys, cards for my family members by myself. I often go to the stationery to buy some colored paper, glue, ribbons and fabric to make nice and creative presents.

I have a good friend. I buy and make different interesting things for her too.

So, having pocket money makes me feel confident and independent. Sometimes I wish I had more pocket money to buy nice presents. This summer I am going to try a part-time job to be more independent of my parents in money.

In my view, parents shouldn't give much money to their children as it may spoil them. A child should understand that his or her parents work hard to earn their living. It takes them a lot of time to earn money for children but some children can easily spend this money on the things they don't need at all. Some children keep asking their parents to give them much money to buy fashionable clothes and accessories or they spend a lot of money on entertainment. As for me it's not reasonable. I believe children should respect their parents' work and learn how to spend money. So, I try to think twice before spending my pocket money.

Money makes the world go round

1. Do you agree that "Money makes the world go round"?

To begin with, I would like to say that money plays an important role in our life. People use money every day to pay for things they buy. Money is an important option for people to communicate: they work for money, they go out to spend money, and they sometimes even make friends for money. But money also serves as a medium of exchange as people accept it for their goods and services. It is used as a "storehouse of value". It is a "yardstick of value". It also serves as a standard for future payments.

Nowadays there are many ways of earning money.

Some people become rich and famous due to their inventions and their natural talents. Bill Gates makes an example. Together with his friends from Harvard university he developed a version of the BASIC programming language. They founded Microsoft and he dropped out of the university to devote his time to it. Under his leadership the company expanded rapidly due to the success of its applications and operating systems. At the age of 31 Gates became the youngest millionaire in the USA. Now his fortune reached \$80 billion, making him the wealthiest individual in the world.

Success in such competitive spheres as sport and show-business can be overwhelming and rather profitable. Claudia Schiffer is a successful German supermodel and businesswoman. She has her own fitness video and she spends a lot of time working with charities.

A lot of young people nowadays take up part-time jobs. They work as baby-sitters, shop-assistants or cleaners. So they earn their own money, which gives them a sense of independence. It also teaches them to appreciate any labor and the money their parents earn.

Some people win money in lotteries. Last year I read about a British plumber who had won £3 mln. He had ordered a new house and two cars and had also donated some money to charities. Even though that money would have been enough for him not to work any more at all, he said he would work any way.

There are also some people who agree to work without any pay. Volunteers help elderly people with shopping, preparing meals, cleaning and washing, they help the disabled and take part in different social and nature protection programs.

However, there are some people who do not want to work and try to get money illegally. For example, burglars break into houses and take most valuable things and hi-jack cars in order to resell them. Some of them can rob people in the street or even murder them as they don't value a human's life and labor at all.

As technologies advance, there has appeared a new type of criminals - hackers. They try to break through security systems and steal money from bank accounts. They also practise software pirating. Or some try to mislead others so that they would let out some private information on the Internet and they almost can't be controlled there.

I realize that nowadays a lot of people find their happiness in having a big amount of money. It gives them a possibility to be independent, to afford expensive things, to travel all over the world and a lot more. Our modern society is often called the "consumers" society and I agree with it. People depend on the amount of money they have. Modern people are influenced by material values and the conveniences of modern life a lot more than by moral laws. But I'm not a person of that kind. As for me, I try to be open-minded, kind-hearted and have self-respect. I study hard at school in order to get good education, find a prestigious and well-paid job, become a professional and be useful for the society I live in.

Money

Money doesn't buy happiness but it helps. Money has become one of the main things in our modern life. Some people live their lives to earn money. They work hard, trying to earn as much money as they can. Some of them become crazy about it and lose their dignity hunting money. They don't appreciate such important things as family, friendship, love and other feelings. Such people become greedy, they spend their lives in loneliness.

I don't deny that money influences our life a lot. As W.S. Maugham said " Money is like the sixth feeling without which you cannot make a complete use of the other five." I quite agree. A person can't be happy if he has no money to satisfy his natural needs. But I think that money should have a limit. A person shouldn't have too much money. It begins tesfroying him and becomes his curse.

It is said in the Bible that "The love of money is the root of all evil." Yes, big sums of money really bring different problems because people feel very envious and jealous of other's fortune. The majority of all the crimes are made because of money. Fmlimong the people who consider that money is not all-powerful. Humanity, dignity, intelligence, kindness and other good qualities of a person can't be bought for money.

We'll never be able to buy pure love, real friendship and loving and caring family. But life isn't worth living without these things. It's not worth living if money has become the point of it either.

Money talks

Is money important? Before I answer this question, let me say only this: "Money doesn't bring happiness!" This was once a useful proverb, but now it's old fashioned.

In today's world, if you don't have money you have nothing. Do men control money or is money controlling men? For some people, money is everything. But not everybody thinks that way. We live in such a materialistic society where the common belief is that he, who makes the most money, has the most power and dignity. Often, however, he who makes the most money has the most stress and the least free time. Undeniable, in this modern and sophisticated world, we always look up at wealthy people like Bill Gates. But we must bear in mind that money is not the key to happiness.

Originally, money was created by men for convenience. Nowadays we are not able to imagine a society in which money is unimportant. It is a symbol of power, glory, fame, our entire happiness depends on whether we have it, or we do not. We need to satisfy our basic needs: if we are hungry and homeless, we are less likely to achieve true happiness, and money is necessary at least to get food and a place to live. Mark Twain used to say this: "Clothes make the man" and I think he was right. Without money, how you can go at the supermarket and buy everything you need? So, yes, I consider that money is important.

Things to know about money

From dirty money, to fake (фальшивые) money, to fast money, to funny money — human beings are fascinated with the banknotes, coins and cards that let us get richer and perhaps happier. But how much money is out there? Who has it? Where did cash come from? What's in a bill, or a coin? Find out everything you ever wanted to know about the mysteries of money ... plus the amazing cash facts that will leave you eating, sleeping and breathing dollar bills.

What was used as money before bank notes and coins? Before money was made of bills and coins, these items were used as currency: shells, ivory, clay, live animals and grain.

When did the first exchange operation happen? They say it was in the 18th century BC in Babylon.

Who's the first banker on record? It's Pythius, a merchant banker from Asia Minor in the 5th century BC.

Where does the term "check" or "cheque" come from? It's derived from the game of chess. Putting the king in check means his choices are limited, just like a modern day cheque that limits opportunities for forgery and alteration.

Who was the first to use the cheque system? The Knights Templar between 1118 and 1307 used a cheque system to provide their pilgrims with travel funds. They worked much like modern day traveller's cheques.

Where does the \$ symbol come from? It's derived from the Spanish dollar sign. In 1782, the US considered choosing the Spanish peso as the country's currency. The abbreviation for the Spanish peso (PS) later transformed into a \$.

How many currencies are there in the world? There are 191 official currencies worldwide.

What's the name of the science that studies the history of money? The study of currency and the history of money is known as Numismatics.

Interesting facts on American money

There are over 60 communities throughout the United States that have their own form of local currency. Some of the more popular places are Ithaca New York, Berkshire Massachusetts and Walt Disney World theme park. California has the most communities with their own currency, including many popular colleges like Berkeley and Santa Barbara.

A quarter has **119** grooves on its edge, one more than a dime. The reason the mint started using ridges was to prevent counterfeit and devaluing of the coin. At the time, coins **were** made of precious metals and

people would shave the coin's edges. Merchants had to start weighing the coins to determine the true value since so many coins in circulation were shaved. Now that the mint no longer uses precious metals, they still keep the ridges for the seeing impaired to be able to tell the differences between coins like the dime and penny.

A penny weighs 2.5 grams which is the average weight of a humming bird. A can of soda has 4 penny's worth of sugar.

On an American one-dollar bill, there is an owl in the upper left-hand corner of the "1" encased in the "shield". There is a spider hidden in the front upper right-hand corner of the bill.

If you toss a penny 10,000 times, it will not be heads 50 % of the time, but more like 49 % . The heads picture weighs more, so it ends up on the bottom. So always pick tails, you have a slightly better chance.

There is more Monopoly money printed in a year, than real money printed throughout the world. The amount of money in a Monopoly game is \$15,140.

There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar. In the US, there are 2 credit cards for member of the population.

5. Literature

The Printed Word

The earliest books were written on tablets of wood or pieces of bark. In Greece and Rome, the tablets of wood were covered with wax, and writing was impressed upon them with a small stick called "stylus". These tablets were held together on one side with thin strips of leather or metal rings. In Assyria and Babylonia clay tablets were used for writing and the words were drawn with a piece of wood. After baking, the tablets were kept on shelves, just like books are kept today. Although the clay tablets didn't look very beautiful, they were long-lasting and some of them survived until the present day. The earliest books of the ancient world were written on papyrus and skins of young animals.

These books took the form of a long strip, rolled from one cylinder to another. These writings were known to the Romans as *volumen* from which comes the word *volume*. Though paper has been known in China since the first century, the secret of papermaking came to Europe much later.

Books were quite common in ancient Rome: we know that there were many booksellers and the first public library was founded there about 39 B.C.¹ Only the rich could buy books or make their slaves copy books from important libraries. By the time of the Middle Ages all books were handwritten and often beautifully decorated. Libraries used to chain books to the shelves so that they could not be removed from the building. But very few people could read them. The invention of printing was a really great event in history. The first people to invent printing were the Chinese. In Europe there were several people who can be called inventors of printing. The best-known is Johann Gutenberg from Germany.

Printing went quickly over Europe and by the end of the 15th century there were more than 200 presses. The early printers were not only craftsmen, but also editors, publishers and booksellers. The first printing press in England was, set up by William Caxton at Westminster in 1476, and the first printing press in Russia — by Ivan Fedorov in Moscow in 1564. Printed books soon reached a very high standard and the craftsmen were rightfully proud of their work. Eventually there were more and more people in Europe who could read and they wanted more and more books. That led to opening more libraries.

Early libraries were used only by scientists and were few. By and by they grew in number and began to be used by the public. The 19th century saw the appearance of a proper system of public libraries. Now most countries have their own national libraries. Many old university libraries have rich collections of books: Oxford and Cambridge in England, Harvard and Yale in the United States. Among the great libraries of the world we can name the *British Museum Library* (the British Library) in London, the *Library of Congress in the United States*, *Bibliothèque Nationale in France*, the *Beijing Library in China*, the *State Public Library in Moscow*. The world's largest is the US Library of Congress. It holds about 90 million items — books and manuscripts. The library was founded in 1800 in Washington, DC for the use of Congress and later became a public library. Bibliothèque Nationale dates back to the 17th century and the British Museum Library was set in the 18th century. The State Public Library in Moscow was founded in 1862 and has unique collections of books.

Modern libraries do their best to help people get information as quickly as possible. They use computers and electronic catalogues. Probably the most difficult problem for any library is to keep their books, journals and films. How they do it is a new story.

Reading in Our Life

I'm fond of reading. In my opinion, books are a source of emotional inspiration and romantic feelings. Reading is very useful, because books enrich our experience with that of the other people. Besides, books help me to continue my own education.

I'm sure that a reader lives a richer life than a non-reader. The time spent on a good book is never wasted. Reading is a rewarding pastime. But some people think, that the tempo of modern life is too fast to waste time on reading. They are sure that books have begun to lose their prestige and value. I disagree.

I enjoy books of different genres: love and detective stories, thrillers and historical novels, tales, works after classical and modern writers. I'm a great lover of the English and American literature. Among my favourite writers are W. Shakespeare and Ch. Dickens, J. Galsworthy and A. Cronin, J. London and E. Hemingway to name only a few. I read them in translation and try to read in the original.

I read books after Russian and Belarusian writers, too. We can say that L. Tolstoy, D. Dostoevsky, A. Chekhov, A. Pushkin are as popular as they used to be. Their works have stood the test of time. My favourite modern writers are V. Karatkevich and I. Solzhenitsyn.

I try to get acquainted with popular works and best-sellers. Luckily there is a big choice of various books in book shops and stalls. But more often I buy books after Joanna Chmielewska, a Polish writer of ironical detective stories.

I can't imagine my life without reading. «Except a living man there is nothing more wonderful than a book», said one clever man. And I share his opinion. Books teach us what is right and what is wrong, to understand the world and people in it, they mould our character and at the same time tell us exciting stories.

Vocabulary

enrich v.	обогащать
experience n.	опыт
genre n.	жанр
inspiration n.	вдохновение
mould v.	формировать
pastime n.	времяпрепровождение
prestige n.	престиж
reward v.	вознаграждать
share v.	разделять
source n.	источник
test of time	испытание временем

Books

Many, many years ago a town crier ran through the streets and shouted out all the news. But now we live in the Atomic Age. Too many things happen too quickly for us to learn about them in the old-fashioned way. That is why we have to read more and more in order to find out what is happening in the world. Reading is rarely a waste of time.

Have you ever thought about the kind of books people used long ago? It is only in the last 500 years that books have been printed on paper. Before that time the only way of making books was to write them out by hand. No one knows when writing first began, but we have found drawings on the walls of caves and scratchings on bones which are at least 25,000 years old.

The invention of paper played a very important part in the development of books.

In the 11th century the art of papermaking reached Europe but no trace of printing was found in Europe until 1423. It is known that Johann Gutenberg secretly tried out ways of printing in Strasbourg, Germany, in 1440.

The knowledge of the methods of printing spread so quickly over the Continent of Europe that by the year 1487 nearly every country had started printing books.

Later people began to learn how to make paper more quickly and cheaply and of better quality.

As a result of this, books became much lighter and smaller.

The first person to print books in the English language was William Caxton, in Russia — Ivan Fedorov.

The first book printed in the Russian language appeared in Moscow on the first of March, 1564. Up to that time there were only handwritten books in Russia. The house built for printing books was not far from the Kremlin. At that time it was one of the best buildings in the Russian capital.

Ivan Fedorov and his assistants were the first to use Russian letters.

By the 16th century books looked very much as they do today and since then very little change has been made in **their** appearance.

Vocabulary:

a town cryer	городской глашатай
for us to learn about them	чтобы мы узнали о них
in the old-fashioned way	устаревшими средствами
no trace ... was found	никаких следов ... не было обнаружено
to print	печатать
by hand	от руки, вручную

The Book-bag

Some people read for instruction, and some for pleasure, but not a few read from habit. I belong to that company. Let us admit that reading with us is just a drug that we cannot get along without.

Books are necessary to me and I never travel far without enough reading matter. But when I am starting on a long journey, the problem is really great. I have learnt my lesson. Once I fell ill in a small town in Java and had to stay in bed for three months. I came to the end of all the books I had brought with me and knowing no Dutch had to buy the schoolbooks from which intelligent Javanese, I suppose, got knowledge of French and German. So I read again after twenty-five years the plays of Goethe, the fables of La Fontaine and the tragedies of Racine. I have the greatest admiration for Racine, but I admit that to read his plays one after the other requires a certain effort in a person who is ill. Since then I have made a point of travelling with a large sack full of books for every possible occasion and every mood.

There are books of all kinds. Volumes of verse, novels, philosophical works, critical studies (they say books about books are useless, but they certainly make very pleasant reading), biographies, history; there are books to read when you are **ill** and books to read when your brain wants something to work at; there are books that you have always wanted to read but in the hurry of life at home have never found time to; there are books to read at sea; there are books for bad weather; there are books chosen solely for their length, which you take along when you have to travel light, and there are the books you can read when you can read nothing else.

Vocabulary:

to have the greatest admiration for smth.	больше всего увлекаться чем-либо
for every possible occasion	для каждого возможного случая
for every mood	для всякого настроения
brain	ум, мозг, рассудок

William Shakespeare

Nowadays people seem to read newspapers mostly. Many people are fond of reading detective stories or spy thrillers. I myself prefer books about politics, history, travel-books and biographies. It is my dream to become a student of the department of foreign languages and to be able to read the books by my favourite English and American writers in the original.

As for the American writers, I like to read books by Mark Twain and O'Henry.

I enjoy reading books by such English writers as Charles Dickens, Robert Stevenson, Walter Scott. My favourite English writer is William Shakespeare, one of the most outstanding personalities in the world literature.

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon not far from London. His father, John Shakespeare, came to Stratford from a village and opened a shop there. He never became a rich man but at one time he was an important official in the city. William Shakespeare lived in Stratford until he was

twenty-one. He got married and had three children. At the age of 21 William left Stratford for London to join a company of actors. He was a very good actor and an excellent playwright. William Shakespeare lived and worked in London for 25 years. By the end of the 16th century William Shakespeare and his friends had enough money to build their own theatre — the Globe.

In all Shakespeare wrote 37 plays, 2 long poems, a sonnet cycle of 155 small pieces.

William Shakespeare had a natural gift for comedy. In his comedies "Two Gentlemen of Verona", "As you Like It", "The Twelfth Night" William Shakespeare describes the adventures of young men and women, their love, friendship, happiness.

Shakespeare's tragedies "King Lear", "Othello", "Romeo and Juliet" depict noblemen who opposed evil in the world. Since they were written there has never been a time when at least some of Shakespeare's plays were not staged.

In England and other countries it is the highest honour for an actor to be invited to play in a comedy or a tragedy by Shakespeare. In the last 35 years all the plays by W. Shakespeare have been filmed. Since 1879 Shakespeare's Festival has been held every year at Stratford-upon-Avon.

Vocabulary:

thriller	сенсационный роман
spy	шпион
detective story	детективный рассказ
official	чиновник
to get married	жениться
to be held	проводиться
to film	снимать фильм

Charles Dickens

Charles Dickens was born in 1812. He lived in the south of England when he was a little boy. His father worked in an office. He was a very clever man, but he was very poor. Charles had many brothers and sisters, but he did not often play with them. His father had many books and Charles liked to read them. He learned to read very early.

When Charles was 10 years old, his family went to London.

There his father got into debt (as he had little money) and then into debtor's prison. So little Charles began to work when he was ten. That was the beginning of Charles' hard life.

He worked at a small factory in London, pasting labels on blacking bottles. He had to work in a dirty room with no windows. He did not like his work, but he had to work at the factory for two years. Then he went to school for three years, but he did not learn much at school. He learned much at home, from his father and from other clever people.

Later he worked as a reporter to the Parliament and became a writer of short stories.

In 1837 he published his first novel "The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club". And the young reporter became a famous writer. Then he published novel after novel — "Oliver Twist", "Dombey and Son", "David Copperfield" and many other good books.

His books are very interesting, they tell us about the hard life of the poor people in England of that time. When we read his books, we sometimes laugh, but we often want to cry.

Charles Dickens died in 1870.

He is one of the greatest novelists in the English literature. Dickens lived more than a hundred years ago, but people in the whole world like to read his books today, because in his books he showed a real world and people of Victorian England.

Vocabulary:

to get into debt	залезть в долги
to cry	плакать
poor	бедный
prison	тюрьма

My Favourite Book

My favourite book is «Robinson Crusoe» by Daniel Defoe. D. Defoe (1660—1731) was a great master of realistic detail. The novel «Robinson Crusoe» was written in 1719. The novel is praise to human labour and the triumph of man over nature. Defoe shows the development of his hero. At the beginning of the story we see an unexperienced youth, a rather frivolous boy, who then becomes a strong-willed man.

Robinson Crusoe's most characteristic trait is his optimism. His guiding principle in life become «never say die» and «in trouble to be troubled is to have your troubles doubled». He had confidence in himself and in man. He believed it was within the power of man to overcome all difficulties. Crusoe was an enthusiastic worker and always hoped for the best.

Defoe is a writer of the Enlightenment. He teaches people how to live, he tries to teach what's good and what's bad.

His novel «Robinson Crusoe» is not only a work of fiction, an account of adventures, a biography and an educational pamphlet. It is a study of man, a great work showing man in relation to nature and civilization as well as in relation to labour and private property.

Vocabulary:

praise	хвала, в. хвалить
triumph	торжество, победа
unexperienced	неопытный
frivolous	пустой, легкомысленный
trait	черта (характера)
trouble	беда, беспокойство, в. беспокоиться
to double	удваивать

Books

I've recently read a book which has made a very deep impression on me. It's called *Gone with the Wind* and it makes really unforgettable reading. The author of the book is Margaret Mitchell. She was born in Atlanta, Georgia, into a family of the president of the Atlanta Historical Society. All the family were interested in American history and she grew up in an atmosphere of stories about the Civil War. She put on paper all the stories she had heard about the Civil War. The result was *Gone with the Wind*. It was first published in 1936 and became the talking point of all America. In 1939 it was made into a highly successful film. Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable played the leading roles. Vivien Leigh won the Oscar. Everyone loved her high-spirited and beautiful heroine, Scarlett O'Hara. The story is set around the time of the American Civil War (1861-65) when the Southern States went to war with the North to defend their way of life. It was a way of life in which rich gentry lived in large houses and owned huge areas of land, cultivated by black slaves. Scarlett O'Hara was born into one of these rich houses. When this way of life was destroyed and all her family's wealth taken away by the advancing Northerners, Scarlet had to grow up and use all her wit and intelligence — and beauty — to build a new life. But *Gone with the Wind* is also about a love triangle. While Scarlett loves the quiet, gentlemanly Ashley Wilkes, the wild Rhett Butler is in love with her. After Ashley marries someone else, and after many adventures of her own, Scarlett does marry Rhett — but only for money. The marriage is stormy and eventually Rhett walks out on her, but by that time Scarlett has realized that she loves him after all. Scarlett thinks of some way of getting him back, but we never know if she does. Margaret Mitchell never wrote a sequel to answer this burning question. She died in 1949 in a car crash. In 1991 a publishing company asked Alexandra Ripley, a historical novelist to do the job. Her novel *Scarlett* was not in the same class as the original. Critics have been writing very bad reviews of *Scarlett*, but the book is popular with the public.

My Favourite English Writer

It's common knowledge that reading foreign literature helps you to learn more about the life of people in other countries, their traditions and customs. As I study English, I try to read as many books by English writers as possible. The names of English writers and poets such as William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens,

Bernard Shaw, Conan Doyle, Agatha Christie, Oscar Wilde and many others are well-known to educated people all over the world.

It is very difficult for me to choose out of them one name as my favourite writer because I can't say I've read enough and know enough about English literature to make the right judgement. Yet, when I think about it, the first name that comes to my mind is that of Charles Dickens.

This English classic is well-known in our country. His books are translated into Russian and many films have been made after his novels.

Born in 1812 in Portsmouth, he was the second of the eight children in the family. Although not poor by the standards of the time, the Dickens family lived through a series of financial crises. In 1823 facing a financial ruin, the family moved to London, where Charles began to work in a warehouse for six shillings a week. At that time his father was arrested for debt. Only at the age of twelve Charles was sent to school, where he did well, and at the age of fifteen he got a job in a legal firm. After learning shorthand, he became a reporter for the «Morning Chronicle» and soon wrote «Pickwick Papers». In 1836, when «Pickwick Papers» were published, he became the most popular living novelist in England and held this position until he died. The rest can be told in a few words. He published novel after novel — «Oliver Twist», «Nicholas Nickleby», «The Old Curiosity Shop», «David Copperfield», «Little Dorrit» and many others. Besides constantly writing novels he was editing newspapers and magazines, giving readings from his books to huge crowds of people.

There was no other novelist in England who had such a hold on all classes of people already during his lifetime. His books were read by all — by learned and simple people, by the rich and the poor alike.

The popularity of his books hasn't diminished with time. The great-heartedness of the author appeals to the contemporary reader as much as it did a century ago. His kindly, understanding eye looks with tolerance on good and bad alike.

The last book by Ch. Dickens I've read is «Oliver Twist». It's a very touching story about the hard life of English orphans in the workhouse. The miserable adventures of Oliver Twist can't leave the reader indifferent. There is no better description of children's suffering in the world of cruelty and greediness as there's always a glimpse of hope for every character of his books, because Dickens believes in kindness and generosity of people. It's not just a happy end that his books have, it's a philosophy which gives optimism and faith to the reader.

My Favourite Russian Writer

As far as Russian literature is concerned it's hard to name one favourite writer and one favourite book especially if we talk about the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries, known as the «golden» and «silver» periods in the Russian culture. Such giants of Russian literature as A. Pushkin, I. Turgenev, F. Dostoyevsky, L. Tolstoy, A. Chekhov and many others are known all over the world.

The writer who stands out of this list for me is Dostoyevsky. I look upon him not only as a great writer but a great philosopher as well. His ideas had an immense influence on the literature that followed and his deep penetration into the human soul and the motives of people's behaviour impresses the modern reader as much as it did his contemporaries.

Dostoyevsky was born in Moscow in 1821 into a many-children family of a doctor. Though the Dostoyevskies were a middle-class family the father was able to provide the best education for his sons. They studied at one of the most prestigious Moscow private schools of the time. After leaving school, F. Dostoyevsky entered the Engineering College in St. Petersburg. He started writing at the age of 25. His first publication was the novel «Poor People». In 1849 he was arrested for his political views and spent four years of his life as a convict.

Some years later Dostoyevsky and his brother Michael, who was his best friend throughout his life, started publishing a literary magazine «The Time». His world-famous masterpieces were all written between 1850 and 1880. For many years

Dostoyevsky suffered from epilepsy and that caused his death in 1881.

Among his outstanding novels are «The Brothers Karamazov», «Humiliated and Abused», «Crime and Punishment», «The Idiot», «Demons». I've read all of them, but I think I am most impressed by «The Idiot».

In this novel Dostoyevsky wanted to depict a living ideal man. As he was deeply interested in religion and knew a lot about it, he was convinced that Jesus Christ was the only positive person in the history of

mankind. That is why the main character of the novel, Prince Myshkin, resembles Christ in his qualities and intentions. Myshkin was Dostoyevsky's favourite character. He comes back to Russia from Switzerland, but can't find his place in the society of «the cult of money». He argues with other characters of the novel about beauty and morality. But like Griboyedov's hero Chatsky he can't change much about the world he lives in. Myshkin can't be understood by the society which considers him «an idiot». Dostoyevsky contrasts two different approaches to human virtues and beauty. The main character says that beauty will save the world. But in the end he realizes that it is beauty that should be rescued. Unable to adjust to the cruel society he found himself in, he becomes mentally ill and is taken back to Switzerland.

Thus the eternal struggle between the good and the evil is lost by Dostoyevsky's character, but the problems raised have not lost their significance. At the present time Dostoyevsky is still among the most widely read authors, whose contribution to the world literature can't be overestimated. Although Dostoyevsky wrote about Russian people and the problems of the Russian society of his time, his genius made the problems raised international and vital for people of all nationalities and Dostoyevsky's legacy belongs to the whole world.

My Favourite Belarusian Writer

These days more than often you may hear that reading books is not popular with children and young people. They blame television and video for that. To a great extent it's true. At the same time at school we had to read quite a lot for Russian and Belarusian literature lessons.

I personally tried to read all the things that were required by the school programme. I am fond of reading and I never give up a book once I have started to read it.

It's always hard to give the name of your favourite writer. The world literature is enormously extensive and different in genres and so naturally I like several writers both among foreign and Belarusian authors. I am especially keen on adventure stories and historical novels.

Like most Belarusians I pride myself on such giants of Belarusian literature as Ya. Kupala and Ya. Kolas, M. Bogdanovich and I. Melezh, V. Korotkevich and V. Bykov and many others.

I'd like to speak about Vladimir Korotkevich who is well-known as the author of historical novels, plays, short stories and poems.

He was born in 1930 in Orsha. He studied at Kiev University and took a course in literature and cinematography in Moscow.

Korotkevich started his literary career as a poet. He published his first poem in 1955. But his main interest was the history of Belarus. The constant concern for the history and culture of Belarus is characteristic of all Korotkevich's writing. Among Korotkevich's best works about the past of Belarus are the novels «Old Legend», «The Black Castle of Olshany» and also his novel about Kastus Kalinovsky and the uprising of 1863. The writer often described historic events in the form of detective stories. You can see it in his novels «The Wild Hunt of King Stakh», «Impossible to Forget» and some others.

V. Korotkevich's book «The Land Beneath White Wings» is about the history and culture of Belarus from old times till today. Every line of this novel speaks of the author's love for his motherland, its people and its beautiful nature. In his books Korotkevich used lines from the poems by other poets to describe the beauty of Belarus. He wrote many short stories which are full of poetry, beauty and love of nature.

Plays by V. Korotkevich are staged at the theatres of Minsk, Vitebsk and other cities and towns of Belarus. There are several films made after his novels. The most popular, among them is probably «The Wild Hunt of King Stakh». It has been shown at many film festivals.

V. Korotkevich was the winner of Ivan Melezh and Ya.Kolas literary prizes in Belarus. His books are translated into many languages.

I've read most of his books and liked them very much especially «Kalasy Pad Siarpom Tvaim». This novel is about a certain historic period. The author recreates real and fictional events and characters. It's about historical figures of politics and the struggle of patriotic Belarusians like Zagorsky who wanted to defend their country from the political pressure that came from Russia and Poland at that time. But there is much more to it than history and politics. The action includes adventures, humorous scenes, clashes of personality as well as a number of love affairs. The plot of the book and the love line are really catching.

His early death at the height of his powers was an immense loss for Belarusian literature and society as a whole.

It's a pity that Korotkevich died in the prime of his creative **life**.

Sovay

By Celia Rees

(Review after Samantha Mullender)

'Sovay' by Celia Rees is a great historical novel which helps the modern reader to feel what it was like to live in England of the 18th century.

The book is of a well brought up young lady — Sovay, who finds that her relaxed country life in rural England has not prepared her for protecting her family or for saving herself from corruption and evil.

The story is set in 1794, at the time of the Revolution in France. Sovay finds herself in the centre of adventures and intrigue [m'tri:g], which is dangerous for her.

Sovay is going to marry the son of a government official. However, to test his love, she dresses as a highway robber (разбойник с большой дороги) and stops his coach (экипаж). The excitement is catching, and soon she begins to take on the role of a highwayman regularly. She stops the coaches of the rich and then leaves the finds for the poor of the village. On one of these expeditions she finds a document which condemns [kan'demz] her father of treason (обвиняет в государственной измене) — and with it comes the death sentence (смертный приговор). From here on, Sovay's life becomes a mess. Her brother and father have disappeared from the country without a trace (без следа), and it seems that everyone is out to get her. With every new chapter, Celia Rees turns the blame onto (поворачивает вину на) a new character, until the reader doesn't understand who are friends and enemies.

'Sovay' is an outstanding book, with an extremely adventurous plot. It is a very entertaining read that I would recommend to anyone, particularly, however, to older teenage girls. It is not a girly book as such, but does touch on things such as relationships and family bonds (семейные узы).

The only let down I feel is the ending, which is far too quick. It is as if Rees simply got bored and decided to finish the book as quickly as possible. It leaves too many questions unanswered, and as a reader you are expected to just forget about them.

Despite this (несмотря на это), 'Sovay' is a fantastic book that much lives up to any expectations you may have. It keeps you together with the character and you find yourself shouting when the main character doesn't see the 'obvious' (очевидное). This book is well worth reading.

6. Cinema

Theatre and Cinema: How It All Began

Theatrical drama, as we understand it today, is based on three things. First there must be an actor or actors speaking or singing. Second, there must be some dramatic conflict (or different relations) between actors. The two sides may be enemies, they may be friends that can't agree with each other, or they may be divided by misunderstanding. Third, and just as important as the other two, there must be an audience following the progress of the drama.

The first theatrical performances of this kind took place in ancient Greece. The Greek drama developed from hymn sung to Dionysius, the god of wine and good life. But it did not become true theatre until such performances included stories of the other gods and actors to represent them.

The first actor known was called Thespis ['0espis]. He was the leading singer and travelled from his birthplace to Athens in a cart that carried all his belongings and could be turned into a stage for performance. In Athens he won a prize at the new drama festival. People believe that he was also/the first man who separated himself from other singers to make a dialogue with them. He was the first professional performer who was brave enough to play a god. Before him this role had always belonged to priests or kings.

Cinema is much younger than theatre. It was born at the end of the 19th century. The first people who showed the first movies to a paying public were the Lumiere ['luimiea] Brothers of France. They did this at the Grand Cafe, Boulevard des Capucines, Paris, on the 20th February 1896. This was the first cinema show and it was quickly followed by many others in all parts of the world. The first films showed moving people and transport or news-reels [nju:zri:lz] of processions and wars, and short comedies. In 1901

France was the first country to produce a dramatic film, *The Story of a Crime*, which was followed by *The Great Train Robbery* in the United States in 1903.

At first, films were shown anywhere: in music halls, clubs and shops. By 1908, special film theatres were being built to give regular programmes. At this time cinema rapidly developed in both the New and the Old World. Charlie Chaplin made his first film, *Making a Living*, in 1914 in the USA. The Russian film industry was now going its own way. It produced such great films as Protazanov's *The Queen of Spades* (1916) and *Father Sergius* (1918). Both films starred Ivan Mosjoukhin, the famous actor. A little later Russia's great achievement in cinema was connected with its directors such as Eisenstein (*The Battleship "Potemkin"*), Pudovkin (*Mother*), Kuleshov (*By the Law*), Dovzhenko (*Earth*), and others. Then, in 1927, Warner Brothers in Hollywood made the first film in which an actor sang and spoke. The film was called *Jazz Singer*. It opened a new era in films — the era of the "talkies". The film mostly told its story with titles, but it had three songs and a short dialogue. There were long lines of people in front of the Warner Theatre in New York. The silent film was dead within a year. The first one hundred percent sound film, *Lights of New York*, appeared in 1928. The first colour films were made in the 1930s, but the black-and-white films are made even today.

Cinema. «Titanic»

I'm not a cinema goer. I prefer to watch films on TV or video. But I think, that watching a good film is the best relaxation. It is thought-provoking and entertaining. Now a growing number of people prefer watching films on TV to attending cinemas. There are wonderful comedies, love stories, science fiction, horror films, detective stories, historical films on. There's a variety of films available today.

But the shooting of «Titanic» in 1997 brought people flocking back to the cinemas. It has become a blockbuster and brought big profits to the producers. The reasons are: on the one hand, the thrilling plot of the film, depicting the first of the greatest disasters of the 20th century, and, on the other hand, new technologies of film making, used by James Cameron, the producer. Everybody wanted to see if the film was really worth eleven «Oscar» awards.

«Titanic» is the latest screen version of the tragedy happened on April **14-15, 1912** during the maiden voyage of the British luxury passenger liner. The vessel sank with a loss of about 1.500 lives: men, women and children. Their voyage on board the dream ship ended in a nightmare. It revealed all human vices: arrogance, self-satisfaction, greed, selfishness and self-confidence. But at the same time this tragedy showed the best traits of human character: the sense of duty and responsibility, self-sacrifice and short but immortal love. The love-story about Jack and Rose, a young poor artist and a 17-year old girl from the upper society, arouses our sympathy and admiration. Paired with the main story-line, it adds much to the impression of the film. «Titanic» made the leading actors Leonardo Di Caprio and Kate Winslet international celebrities. The music of James Horner created a special atmosphere in the film and has become popular with the public.

The film is interesting not only from the artistic point of view, but from the technical one as well. Both the ship and the ocean are virtual, created by computers. Besides, we can see unique pictures of «The Titanic» buried in the depth of the ocean. Its wreck was found lying in two pieces on the ocean floor at a depth of about 4.000 metres. The pictures were taken with the help of the Russian ocean-explorers and shown to the whole world.

By the way, the film was directed by James Cameron, famous for creating very expensive films with new special effects, which were the biggest box-office success. «Titanic» is not an exception. Critics say the film has opened a new era in film production. I think, they are right.

Vocabulary

arrogance <i>n.</i>	высокомерие, надменность
attend <i>v.</i>	посещать
available <i>a.</i>	имеющийся в наличии
blockbuster <i>n.</i>	дорогостоящий фильм
celebrity <i>n.</i>	знаменитость
depict <i>n.</i>	изображать, отображать
direct <i>v.</i>	ставить (фильм)
entertaining <i>a.</i>	развлекательный, занимательный
flock <i>v.</i>	стекаться толпами

horror <i>n.</i>	ужас
immortal <i>a.</i>	бессмертный, вечный
loss <i>n.</i>	потеря
luxury <i>n.</i>	роскошь
nightmare <i>n.</i>	кошмар
plot <i>n.</i>	сюжет
producer <i>n.</i>	режиссёр-постановщик
relaxations.	отдых
reveal <i>v.</i>	показывать, обнаруживать
science fiction	научная фантастика
screen version	экранизация
shooting <i>n.</i>	(кино) съёмка
technology <i>n.</i>	технология
thought-provoking <i>a.</i>	заставляющий задуматься
trait of character	черта характера
unique <i>a.</i>	уникальный, единственный в своём роде
vessel <i>n.</i>	корабль
vice <i>n.</i>	порок, зло, недостаток
virtual <i>a.</i>	виртуальный
wreck <i>n.</i>	остов разбитого судна

A Visit to the Cinema

Once I read an article about various kinds of entertainment. According to it TV, radio and cinema have made great changes in the entertainments with which people fill their free time.

There was a time when people knew what to do to enjoy themselves: they played games, sang, played musical instruments, went out shooting.

Nowadays we can get entertained by the TV, the radio, the theatre or the cinema. Cinema is available no matter where you live. You can always find the film you like among horror films, thrillers, westerns, detective, love, musical films or comedies.

Not so long ago most people used to visit cinema every week. Often cinema houses were overcrowded. But at present video production has flooded the market and cinema became less popular.

I don't go often to the cinema and my friends are not regular cinema-goers either. But if there is a film, which is a hit with the public, I do my best to watch it. The last film I saw was Hollywood remake of Shakespeare's «Romeo and Juliet». The action takes place in the modern world but all the rest is just like great Shakespeare had described: people, action, feelings. The original text was used in the film. And I have to mention that the music was great. I think the actors and the actresses did their best and looked great. I'll remember the film for a long time.

Cinema

Cinema plays an important role in the life of any society. It is an available popular form of art. Lots of people find going to the cinema one of the best ways of spending their leisure time. The movie audience is predominantly a young one.

Due to numerous video facilities, cinema attendances have declined sharply. But there is no denying the fact that the cinema going habit is still a strong one.

No matter how large the place you live in (whether it's a big city or a small provincial town, or even a settlement) there's most likely to be a cinema there.

There are such genres of feature films as the western, the thriller, the musical, the drama and the comedy. The performance lasts from two or three hours and most cinemas have at least 4 performances a day. There is no doubt that a good cinema show is an excellent entertainment and quite cheap. Of late cinema screens in this country have been dominated by films produced in the USA. And this tendency is growing.

As for me, I'm fond of going to the cinema. It's a pity, I don't always have time for it. It's an open secret that we live in a very difficult time now. But people do need something amusing and pleasant, something

to laugh at. That's why I give my preference to comedies. The last comedy, I saw, is "Crocodile Dandy". The film tells about amusing adventures of a young lovely woman — reporter and a strong and brave crocodile hunter. At first, their relations were not friendly. She even looked down on him and he in return neglected her. But after he rescued her out of some difficult situations, their relations became friendly. A happy end is an essential feature of American films. The same is true of this comedy. The main characters fall in love with each other in the end of the film.

The Best Film I Have Ever Seen

Lots of people find watching films one of the best ways of spending their leisure time. Due to numerous video facilities, which have emerged in this country over the past years, we have a chance to watch the most popular and new films. Sitting in a comfortable armchair one can enjoy watching detective stories and westerns, horror films or screen versions of books.

As for me, I am like all my friends always impressed by films screened after a book. Moreover, I find it enjoyable to reread the book which I don't remember very well to be able to compare it with the screen version.

The film "Emma" with Gwyneth Paltrow as a leading actress is the screen version of the book written by the popular English woman-writer Jane Austen in 1816.

Although many books of Jane Austen are about finding the perfect husband, she never married. She lived most of her life with her mother and sister.

The plot of this film tells us about a very attractive and clever woman. Emma decides that she wants to help people to have a life that is as perfect as hers. When she meets Harriet who is not as bright as she is and not as cultured as she is, Emma decides to try to improve her and help her find love.

Harriet is admired by Robert Martin, a local farmer. Harriet likes him too but Emma does not think he is good enough for her and tells her to reject him.

Emma tries to match Harriet with someone else called Mr. Elton who is the local vicar. Unfortunately, the vicar does not fall in love with Harriet. He falls in love with Emma instead. Emma angrily rejects him. Emma is not always perfect. She often makes mistakes. One of the most memorable scenes in the film occurs at a picnic. Emma is irritated by a woman who is very boring so she tells her how boring she is.

During the film, Emma argues a lot with Mr. Knightley but then she discovers that she is in love with him. Unfortunately, she is not the only one. Harriet is in love with him too.

Luckily, the story ends happily for everyone. The film is very amusing. My dream now is to read this book in the original, that is, in English.

7. Music

Music in Our Life

It's difficult to speak about music in general, because it will either take a lot of time or just one sentence to explain our attitude. Music is an integral part of our life. It is varied because it reflects different human emotions. If we ask several people what kind of music they like, all of them will give different answers. Tastes differ. But the world of music is boundless and everybody can find there something that satisfies his tastes and demands. And all the people will agree that our world will be dull without music. We enjoy music because it influences our mood and imagination, reflects our inner state and character, arouses deep emotions and makes us think. It helps us to remove from tiredness and tension or find new strength, get new energy and optimism.

That's why we can say that all kinds of music are popular with public: classical and pop music, folk music and jazz, operas, musicals, orchestral performances, chamber music, rock and roll, heavy metal, rap, rock, hard rock, rave and so on. For this reason music festivals which are held annually gather large audience.

As for me, I enjoy both classical music and variety show. Some people say, it is difficult to understand classical music. But I've never been scared by the fact. I enjoy music if it appeals to me. I'm fond of

P.I.Chaikovsky, Bach, Mozart. Among contemporary composers I appreciate A.Lloyd Webber and his musicals and rock operas.

If you want to know my preferences in pop music, among singers or pop groups, I won't be able to name any. For variety is variety, I like to listen to different songs, to watch different singers, to hear something new. But I prefer tuneful melodies, easy to remember, light and sometimes haunting.

Vocabulary

annually <i>adv.</i>	ежегодно	mood <i>n.</i>	настроение
appeal <i>v.</i>	нравиться	reflect <i>v.</i>	отражать
arouse <i>y.</i>	вызывать, будить	satisfy <i>v.</i>	удовлетворять
attitude <i>n.</i>	отношение	scare <i>v.</i>	отпугивать, пугать
boundless <i>a.</i>	безграничный	strength <i>n.</i>	сила
contemporary <i>a.</i>	современный	tension <i>n.</i>	напряжение
haunting <i>a.</i>	навязчивый	tiredness <i>n.</i>	усталость, утомление
influences.	влиять	tuneful <i>a.</i>	мелодичный
inner state	внутреннее состояние	varied <i>a.</i>	разнообразный
integral part	неотъемлемая часть	variety <i>n.</i>	1) разнообразие, 2) эстрада

Music in Our Life

I love music, I think people can not live without it. The first thing I do in the morning I switch on my tape — recorder. We can hear music everywhere: in the streets, in the shops, on TV, over the radio, in the cars, in the parks, everywhere. I think it's really doesn't matter what kind of music you prefer: rock, pop, classical, jazz. A lot of people are fond of music. They buy tapes, go to the concerts, visit Concert Halls and Opera Theatres.

I enjoy listening music because it reflects my moods and emotions. Very often when I'm blue, I play my favourite merry songs and feel much better.

Sometimes I attend music halls and the concerts, when popular groups and singers are there. I like watching music programs on TV. I like to know more and more about popular talented groups and singers I like. One wall of my room is covered with posters of «Bon Jovi», «Scorpions», «Roxette», Russian singers Agutin Sjutkin, Linda and others.

Some people go to music schools, they play different musical instruments, sing in the chorus, try to compose music.

Unfortunately there are so many ungifted singers on the stages, that it makes me sad. To have a good producer doesn't mean to have good ears and voice. I think that only talented people can claim to be singers.

Wolfgang Mozart

Wolfgang Mozart is a famous Austrian composer. Mozart was born in 1756 in Salzburg, Austria. His father, a violinist and a composer, noticed wonderful talent of his son and taught him how to play musical instruments and to compose.

Being 4 years old Mozart played the clavier. When he was 5 or 6 years old he started composing music. At the age of 8—9 Mozart created his first symphonies, and at the age of 10—11 his first creations for musical theatre.

When he was 6 years old his father decided to take him and her sister to the big cities of Europe. Two children gave concerts in Germany, Austria, France, England, Switzerland. The audience was delighted to see such a small boy playing the clavier.

When he was 14 he was invited to Italy. He could not imagine his life without music.

By the age of 19 he was the author of ten major musical works.

At the age of 26 he moved from his native town to Vienna. Though he didn't have a great success as a composer in Vienna, Mozart wrote many songs, serenades, symphonies.

Burdens of life, poverty and disease speeded up his death. He died at the age of 35.

The real fame came to Mozart only after his death. Many people now know and like his music.

Vocabulary:

composer — композитор
violinist — скрипач
clavier — клавишин
audience — аудитория
to be delighted — восхищаться

success — успех
burdens — тяготы
poverty — бедность
desease — болезнь
to speed up — ускорить

My Favourite Composer

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER is one of the outstanding contemporary English composers. He is famous for his electric, rock-based works which helped revitalize British and American musical theatre in the late 20th century.

Lloyd Webber was born on March 22, 1948 in London. He studied at Magdalen College, Oxford, and at the Royal College of Music. While a student he began collaborating with Timothy Rice on dramatic productions. Rice wrote the lyrics to Lloyd Webber's music. Their first notable venture was «Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat» (1968), a pop oratorio for children. It earned world-wide popularity. It was followed by the rock opera «Jesus Christ Superstar» (1971), an extremely popular work that blended classical forms with rock music to tell the story of Jesus' life. This show was one of the longest-running musicals in British theatrical history.

Lloyd Webber's last major collaboration with Rice was on «Evita» (1978), a musical about Eva Peron, the wife of the Argentine dictator Juan Peron.

In his next major musical, «Cats» (1981), Lloyd Webber set to music verses from a children's book by T.S. Eliot. Cats became the longest-running musical in the history of British theatre and eventually (1996) eclipsed the record-setting Broadway performance run of A Chorus Line.

In 1986 Lloyd Webber composed a hugely popular musical version of «The Phantom of the Opera» with lyricist Charles Hart and Richard Stilgoe. It strikes the spectators' imagination with superb music, powerful and captivating melodies, which have become classical.

Lloyd Webber's other musicals include «Song and Dance» (1982), «Starlight Express» (1984) and «Aspects of Love» (1989).

Lloyd Webber's best musicals were flashy spectacles that featured vivid melodies and forceful dramatic staging. He was able to blend such disparate genres as rock and roll, English music-hall song, and operatic forms into music that had a wide popular appeal.

In 1992 Queen Elizabeth II dubbed Webber a knight. "

Vocabulary

blend v.	смешивать	feature v.	отличаться
collaborate v.	сотрудничать	flashy a.	сверкающий
disparate a.	несопоставимый	forceful a.	сильный
dub a knight	посвящать в рыцари	lyrics n.	слова песни
earn v.	зарабатывать	revitalize v.	возрождать, оживлять
eclipse v.	затмевать	spectacle л.	спектакль
eventually adv.	в конечном счёте, в итоге,	venture л.	смелое предприятие
в конце концов		vivid a.	яркий, живой

Music

I like music. I prefer rock, jazz and pop. Unfortunately I can't go to concerts every week but I try not to miss the concerts of famous stars when they come to our city. The last concert I went to was the concert of Elton John. Actually, I'm not a fan of Elton John, but my mother is and she bought the tickets and took me to this concert. By the way, the tickets were rather expensive and it was difficult to buy them. It was

the first time I was at a concert with my parents. But I liked it. I liked the special atmosphere. Our seats were comfortable, we could see the stage very well. My mother was very happy to listen to the music of her youth. Though there were very few young people there I didn't feel bored. The songs were fascinating. After the concert we went to a cafe together with my parents and spent a very good evening there.

My favourite singer is Michael Jackson. I like his songs very much because they are full of energy and very melodic. I also like the way he dances. There were nine children in Michael's family. They lived in a small four room house. A lot of strange stories were told about Jackson. It's difficult to decide whether they are true or not. Michael never gave interviews and was rarely seen in public, except on stage. In public he often wore a face mask to protect himself from germs, he slept inside an oxygen capsule. Michael sang in public for the first time when he was five. There were times when he came home from school and he only had time to put his books and get ready for the studio. He often sang until late at night, even if it was past his bedtime. There was a park across the street from the studio, and Michael looked at the kids playing games. And he just stared at them in wonder — he couldn't imagine such freedom, such a carefree life. He said about himself that in the crowd he was afraid, on stage he was safe. Michael was called "the child who never grew up", but I think he was a grown-up who was never allowed to be a child. Whether he was crazy, childish, eccentric or just shy, he was no fool. He created a brilliantly successful image, he made a lot of money and spent it on the things he wanted. Who wouldn't like to do the same?

Pesniary

Pesniary was a popular Soviet Belarusian folk rock VIA. It was founded in 1969 by guitarist Vladimir Mulyavin. Before 1970 the band was known under the name Liavony (Лявонь).

Pesniary combined various types of music, but it mostly used Belarusian folklore though often with various psychedelic rock elements and later rock as well. Several of the Pesniary's songs were composed by Alexandra Pakhmutova. The band often used lyrics from the famous Russian and Belarusian poets of the past. Pesniary's favourite writer was Yanka Kupala. The band adapted his poems into stage musicals twice: *Pesnia o Dole* (Song of Fate, 1976) and *Guslar* (1980), the latter also released as concept album. Among their best known song are "Kasiu Jas Kaniushynu", "Belovezhskaya Pushcha", "Belorussiya" and "Alesia".

Pesniary was the best-known Soviet group coming from the Belorussian SSR. It was one of the very few (and possibly the first) Soviet bands to tour in America in 1976. They've toured the South of the USA together with a folk band The New Christy Minstrels. 1974-1980 is considered the Golden Age era of the band when it achieved top popularity in the USSR, in Eastern Europe and in other countries.

In 1979, after the success of rock opera *Guslar*, the whole band was awarded the honorary title Meritorious Artist of the Soviet Union, and Mulyavin personally received a higher title of People's artist.

After band's leader Vladimir Muliavin death in a car accident on 26 January 2003, the original Pesniary split. Currently, three different bands laid claims to be the official descendants of the original "Pesniary" band. They are:

“Belarusian State Ensemble Pesniary” - state-produced band under Ministry of Culture of Belarus, consisting mostly of young musicians.

"Belorusskie Pesniari" led by former Pesniary saxophonist Uladzislau Misevich. "

"Pesniari" led by former Pesniary vocalist Leanid Bartkevich. All three keep touring and performing original Pesniary songs.